

29 April 72

Dear Hal,

I am sorry to be so slow in responding to yours of the 13th. But I suspect the main reason is that I've been groping for a response that would somehow be adequate...while ^{at} the same time painfully aware of my ^{gross} inadequacy.

I've been unable to get a line on Groh or Rapaport, but such would not likely be (from the few sources here open to me) above reproach anyway. That is, no opinion of either of these men would be completely candid—simply because no MD would be comfortable enough with me (since I am not an MD) to express such an opinion. An illustration of that sometimes murky business called "professional ethics," of course. So all I can really tell you is that I've not been able to find any public evidence suggesting that either Groh or Rapaport are in any way not to be relied upon. This being the case, the only advice I can in good conscience offer you is: keep your appointment(s), be completely frank but of necessity remember that neither of these men (or anyone else, really) can have quite the degree of commitment we both wish them to have. I share your scepticism in these matters, as you know, Hal, though for perhaps somewhat different reasons—because my experiences and observations have been different than your own. At the same time, one must seek the best help available. If we were absolutely certain as to the precise nature of this "best help," well, in such a case we probably wouldn't need it.

And the symptoms you describe, in this last letter and in earlier ones, do not reassure me, Hal. I worry about you, my friend, and do honestly think you should continue to seek help. Too, I am encouraged to hear that one of the men to which you've been referred is a neurologist and that the other has forensic experience. I think you should go, lay your cards out as completely as possible, and then let them know that you expect them to reply in kind. They may not choose to do so, or they may not be capable of doing so—or they may indeed do so. It's a thing you'll have to evaluate yourself, of course. But, again, I urge you to go see them. And try not to cut yourself off from whatever lines of communication that might open up between you. OK? And do certainly write me after you've seen them.

I'll stop now, letting comment on all other matters touched on in your last letter go, in hopes of getting this note posted and into your hands by Monday or Tuesday. Take best care possible of yourself and of Lil—and do not fail to keep in touch. Our telephone number I believe you have, but for convenience here it is again: Area Code 402-345-1469, anytime, any day before 10:30 PM and after 7:30 AM. Remember, too, that our home is open to you and Lil anytime, and that the medical consult Jean and I spoke of arranging for you here can still be easily managed if you can come.

Deepest personal regards,

Hal (and Jean)